Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for automatic payment of a software license fee to a licensor for a service program which is run by and licensed to a service arrangement, in which the service arrangement executes the following steps of the method comprising:

receiving input information from a user device of a user of the a service offered by the service arrangement;

processing the received input information with the service program and rendering output information available;

determining service payment information for the processing of the input information of the user device with the service program;

sending the available output information and, as the case may be, also the determined service payment information to the user device;

determining software license settlement information from at least one of the determined service payment the output information signals; and

sending the determined software license payment information to a pay system for automatic payment of the software license fee for the service program to the licensor, which pay system provides a bill for the software license fee for the use of the service program by the an operator of the service arrangement, which bill is based on the received sent software license payment information.

2. (currently amended) A The method as claimed in of claim 1, in which wherein the service arrangement runs a speech recognition program and the service arrangement receives including:

receiving speech information of a dictation of a the user as the input information, and processes the same with the a recognition program

processing the speech information, and in which

recognizing text information of the dictation recognized from the received speech information by the speech recognition program, and

sending the recognized text information by the speech recognition program is sent as the output information to the user device of the user of the service arrangement.

3. (currently amended) A The method as claimed in of claim 1, in which wherein an identification umber of the service program is entered in the software license payment information during the an installation of the software of the service program and is stored by the service arrangement.

4. (currently amended) A The method as claimed in of claim 1, in which wherein the software license payment information is stored in encoded form by the service arrangement.

5. (currently amended) A The method as claimed in of claim 1, in which wherein the service arrangement executes at least two service program in parallel and in which the service arrangement takes these at least two service programs into account when the software license payment information is determined.

6. (currently amended) A transcription service arrangement for offering a transcription service and for determining software license payment information, to enable an automatic payment of a software license fee for a speech recognition program run by the transcription service arrangement to a licensor, comprising:

receiving means for receiving speech information of a dictation from a user device of a user of the transcription service, and comprising

speech recognition means which, when the speech recognition program is run, are arranged for processing the received speech information and for providing text information which is recognized from the received speech information, and comprising

service payment means for determining service payment information for the transcription of the user's speech information, and comprising

service send means for sending the recognized text information, and, as the case may be, also the service payment information to the user device, and comprising

software license payment means for determining the software license payment information from at least one of the determined service payment information signals based on the recognized text information, and

comprising software license send means for sending the determined software license payment information to a pay system which is provided for preparing a bill for the software license fee on the basis of the received software license payment information for the use of the speech recognition program by the operator of the transcription service arrangement.

7. (currently amended) A The transcription service arrangement as claimed in of claim 6, in which wherein the software license payment means are arranged for detecting a manipulation of the determined service payment information and for detecting a manipulation of the determined software license payment information.

8. (currently amended) A The transcription service arrangement as claimed in of claim 6, in which wherein the software license payment means are arranged for requesting a new prepaid balance from the pay system when the prepaid balance stored in the pay system has nearly been used up reached a predetermined value.

9. (currently amended) A The transcription service arrangement as claimed in of claim 6, in which wherein the software license send means are provided for periodically sending the determined software license payment information to the pay system even when the speech recognition program was not run in the payment interval by the transcription service arrangement.

10. (currently amended) A pay system for automatic payment of a software license fee for a service program run by a service arrangement, comprising receiving means for receiving software license payment information from the service arrangement, which runs the service program so that input information is processed by a user device, and output information is delivered to the user device, and comprising software license billing means for processing the received software license payment information and for preparing a bill for the software license fee for the use of the service program by the operator of the service arrangement based on the output information.

11. (currently amended) A The pay system for automatic payment as claimed in of claim 10, in which wherein the software license billing means are provided for deducting the amount of the available bill from a prepaid balance of the operator of the service arrangement.

12. (currently amended) A computer program product which can be directly loaded into the internal memory of a digital computer and comprises software code sections, in which the computer executes the steps of the method as claimed in claim 1 when the product runs on the computer.

13. (currently amended) A The computer program product as claimed in of claim 12, in which wherein it is stored on a medium that can be read by a the digital computer.

14. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the input information comprises a dictation by the user, the processing of the received dictation comprising determining a number of words in the dictation.

15. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the input information comprises a dictation by the user, the processing of the received dictation comprising determining a number of editing operations during a transcription of the dictation.